

3290 W 7545 S
West Jordan, UT 84084

January 17, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

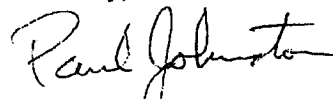
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Microsoft has been involved in an antitrust suit for the past three years, and in November, when a settlement was reached, I began to hope that the whole ordeal would soon be over. Nine states, however, continue to remain litigious, and it worries me that this may not be the end. Microsoft and the Department of Justice have spent a great deal of time and money during this trial, and I can only imagine how much more would be squandered in the pursuit of additional litigation when a settlement has already been reached.

A court-appointed mediator oversaw round-the-clock negotiations from June to November. Microsoft agreed to terms in the settlement that restricted products and procedures that were not found to be unlawful by the court of appeals. A great effort has been made to right any wrongs Microsoft committed, and I believe the time has come to accept the settlement and move on. The settlement requires that Microsoft not take retaliatory action when directly competitive software is introduced into the market. Additionally, Microsoft has been required to reformat future versions of Windows so that the operating system will support non-Microsoft software. Microsoft also plans to document and disclose source code, protocols, and interfaces for use by its competitors to improve interoperability among different software products.

I urge you, Mr. Ashcroft, to allow the settlement to stand.

Sincerely,



Paul Johnston